

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING AND OBTAINING  
RESOURCE USAGE INFORMATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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The invention is directed to techniques for providing and obtaining, from a network node (e.g., a router, bridge, hub, switch, etc.), resource usage information describing usage of resources within the network node. In one arrangement, a system includes a source computer which provides a data element, and a network node coupled to the source computer. The network node forms at least a portion of a network with the source computer. The network node is configured to receive the data element from the source computer, determine that the data element is stale based on a parameter within the data element, remove the data element from the network and send a signal to the source computer. The signal includes (i) an indication that the network node has removed the data element from the network, and (ii) resource usage information describing usage of resources within the network node.

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